

## WAR CREATES DEMAND FOR MT. LAUREL ROOT

Takes Place of French Briar in the Making of Pipes—French Briar Hard to Get.

H. E. C. Bryant in the News and Observer, says:

The war has created a demand for the root of the mountain laurel of North Carolina and other Southern States for pipes. French briar, the most popular of pipe woods, is hard to get. The people of France are too busy trying to whip the Germans and Austrians to dig for briar roots.

"A sale of a large quantity of mountain laurel roots from one of the national forests in North Carolina is reported by officials in charge, who say that the roots will be used to make pipes," said the Forest Service recently.

"The mountain laurel root is similar in appearance to the French briar, which the majority of pipe smokers are said to prefer. The French briar is the root of the white heath or 'bruyere.' These roots are gathered in large quantities, and after being cleaned and sawed into blanks they are placed in hot water and simmered for twelve hours or more. This process gives them the rich hue for which the best pipes are noted. It is said that in 1915 the value of the blanks shipped to this country was almost \$300,000, and in addition a large number of finished pipes were imported.

"On account of the present scarcity and high price of French briar, a number of pipe manufacturers in this country have been on the lookout for substitutes, and the Forest Products Laboratory has conducted experiments to determine the availability of other woods. It is reported that the mountain laurel root burns out more readily than briar, but Forest Service experts are trying to find a method of hardening the wood, and have succeeded to an appreciable extent. They have also found that a number of the various kinds of chaparral which are abundant in the West give promise of yielding material which will be the equal of French Briar in every way.

"Other woods now widely used for pipe making are apple wood, red gum, ebony, and birch, together with smaller amounts of olive wood, rosewood, and osage orange.

"Considerable amounts of the laurel roots are being used, and officials expect to make further sales. The lands purchased by the government in the Southern Appalachians are reported to contain unlimited quantities of laurel, which is widely known for the delicate beauty of its flowers. In places it forms extensive thickets, which are almost impenetrable. Visitors to the mountains say that in the spring these thickets, or 'pink beds' as they are called by the mountaineers, are indescribably beautiful and form one of the main attractions of the region.

"The sales of laurel root will not be made at places frequented by tourists, or where the removal of the laurel will detract from the beauty of the landscape."

A pipe maker on the South Toe River ordered the laurel root from the government.

## STIMULATING FARM BOYS TO RECLAIM WASTE LANDS.

In its land reclamation contest for boys the Du Pont Company of Wilmington, Del., has provided an interesting opportunity for the boys on the farms to turn waste land into fertile fields.

The country has been divided into six groups of States, namely, North Atlantic States, South Atlantic States, North Central States, Western States and Pacific Coast States. In each group there are first, second and third prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$20, respectively.

Besides the cash prizes, each contestant receiving honorable mention will be given a year's paid subscription to contestant's choice of any farm paper published in the United States.

Entries must be received not later than January 1, 1917, and the contest will close December 1, 1917.

The Du Pont Company points out that there are millions of acres of land going to waste in this country today because of stumps, stones, boulders, swamps, gullies, etc., that can be turned into fertile, profitable fields. Farmers are generally too busy with their present fertile lands to bother with the waste acres. This contest is therefore the farm boy's opportunity. It will give him a chance for greater development, and should have the tendency to keep him on the farm.

The idea of the contest is for the farmer to look over his farm and pick out the bad spots, then turn one acre of it over to his son, or another interested boy, and let him improve it.

The contest will doubtless stimulate the reclamation of much idle land.—Manufacturer's Record.

Pat and Mike were walking through a rather wild section when they spied a wild cat in a tree top. They mistook the wild cat for a rather large domesticated cat, and Mike said: "Beggorra, that sure is a fine cat up there. I believe if we could catch him and take him to the next village we could get a bit o'money for him."

Accordingly Mike climbed the tree and after considerable effort succeeded in shaking the cat loose. It fell almost at Pat's feet, and Pat immediately jumped on it. Mike, judging from the sounds that all was not well with Pat, peered down to behold a rolling, twisting mass on the ground that seemed to be mostly Pat and wild cat.

"Do you want me to come down and help ye to hold him?" called Mike.

"No," answered Pat between gasps, "but for the love o' St. Patrick come down and help me leggo av him."

## METHOD OF CONDUCTING LAND BANKS EXPLAINED.

It is not unlikely that the farm loan bill which Woodrow Wilson's signature made law the other day will be considered some years hence as the greatest piece of constructive legislation in the last half century. The American farmer has suffered greatly because he has had to pay an outrageous price for the money he borrowed. City brokers have no use for farm loans. They make their profits out of short term paper, turning over their money with the seasons, practically. The farmer must borrow for a long period. It takes years to raise a calf to be a steer and a colt to be a horse. Some of the machinery which he buys, such as a binder, he can use only a few days in the year. The remainder of the time it is idle. Anyone who read the article of Clarence Outley, of the Agricultural College of Texas, has a fair idea of the tremendous burden placed upon the farmer by the high price he has been compelled to pay for money.

The new law and the creation of the twelve land banks will make it possible for him to borrow on comparatively easy terms. Here is what the farmer can do:

First, he must join what is to be known as a National Farm Loan Association, paying in \$5 for one of its shares for each \$100 he wishes to borrow. He has one vote a share, but not to exceed ten votes in all.

Next, he applies to the association for the loan, giving his personal note therefor, secured by a first mortgage on his farm. If the association approves the loan, it turns the note mortgage to a land bank. The land bank sends the amount of the loan to the association, which hands the money to the farmer. No commission, brokerage or rake-off is charged the borrower.

No single loan is to be for less than \$100 or more than \$10,000; nor less than five years or more than forty years. The loan must not exceed 60 per cent and preferably should not go beyond 50 per cent of the market value of the land covered by the mortgage.

The borrower pays, semi-annually, the interest on his note, plus as installment of the principal. He must not be charged over 6 per cent interest.

Each National Farm Loan Association must have at least ten members, and it cannot begin business with less than \$20,000 in loans applied for. It is illegal, under severe penalties, for any officer, committee member or member to accept any commission, fee or perquisite of any kind for granting any loan. The only paid officer is a Secretary-Treasurer.

Money can be borrowed by this system in order to pay for agricultural land, equipment, fertilizers, live stock, buildings and improvements, or to discharge a prior mortgage. The land bank may charge the borrowing farmer only 1 per cent more than the rate it gets on its bonds. This margin of one point is to cover expenses and profits.

The day of the range is gone. With its passing we must hereafter raise our cattle on the farm. That means a very great amount of money must be invested in stock. We are passing, too, from the age of muscle to the age of machinery in agriculture. That means a great amount of money must be invested in farm machinery. There is need of better farming methods. We raise less than 15 bushels of wheat to the acre. In Germany they produce 35. We rob the soil. We do not fertilize to the extent we should. A great amount of money must be invested in fertilizers. All these investments will bring good profit to the agriculturist. They will bring profit to the public, too. Unless they are made the whole of living will keep rising. The whole public is interested in the condition of the farmer.

Under the Rural Credits law the farmer can borrow at 6 per cent. In Germany he can borrow at from 3 3/4 to 4 1/4. Farm loans there are made on lower terms than the government pays for money it borrows.

We have made a start, a good start. The prosperity of America is bound up in the successful operation of the land banks.—Commerce and Finance.

"A CYCLONE," SAYS HEFLIN.

Representative "Tom" Hefflin, the eloquent Congressman from Alabama, was in New York last week conferring with the Democratic campaign managers.

"They speak of it as a 'drift to Wilson,'" said Mr. Hefflin. "If I am able to judge correctly, it isn't a drift. It's a cyclone."

"President Wilson will poll the solid Democratic vote and will receive the support of more than half of the Progressives, and he is going to have the support of thousands of progressive-thinking and forward-looking Republicans."

"President Wilson deserves to be re-elected on the record of his administration. Constructive legislation, peace and prosperity enjoyed under Wilson constitute an argument that cannot be answered. He is entitled to receive the vote of every patriot in the country, and my judgment is that he will be elected by the largest popular vote ever given a presidential candidate."

Playing House.

"Let's play house," suggested five-year-old Alice to her twin brother Ned. "All right," he agreed, "you get the broom and be the mother, and I'll get the newspaper and be the father."

Manhattan Mercury.

Too bad that Huerta didn't live to enjoy Henry Lane Wilson's defense of his seizure of authority in Mexico.

A Progressive doesn't have to be super-wise to understand with which party his policies will stand the better chance.

Mr. Hughes was filmed in Detroit holding Ty Cobb by the hand. Ty is a wonder, but he'll never be able to drive Hughes in.

The general offensive of Field Marshal Karl Von Hughes on the Western front has resulted in no gains.

## SOME OLD PAVINGS

RECORDS OF QUEER MATERIALS THAT HAVE BEEN USED.

Tombstones Sometimes Employed in England for the Purpose—Glass Used on French Street—Extravagance of Monarch.

Tombstones are not infrequently employed in different parts of England for paving purposes. Some four or five years ago the inhabitants of Belvoir bitterly protested against the use of such material in the construction of a road leading to the parish church, despite the assurances of the local authorities that with the liberal supply of old and broken gravestones at their disposal the plan had been adopted with a view to saving the taxpayers quite a sum.

In Lyons, France, the celebrated Rue de la Republique is paved with glass blocks eight inches square, which have been so precisely fitted together as to make them absolutely watertight. Compressed grass, it is claimed, has been used in the construction of pavements in German towns and with admirable results, and in Russia compressed paper has been utilized for a similar purpose.

Many interesting instances of individual eccentricity or extravagance in the selection of material for paving may be cited. It is related that when Maximilian Emanuel succeeded to the throne of Bavaria he celebrated the event by causing one of the roads leading to his palace to be paved with plates of burnished copper. This, gleaming in the sunshine, gave all the effect of gold.

Louis XIV, it is said, paved one of the courts at Versailles with squares of silver, each of which had recorded upon it some triumph of the French arms. In the center of the court stood a large tablet of gold in representation of the luxurious monarch's favorite emblem, the sun. Memoirs of the time of Louis make mention of a lodge erected in honor of Louise de la Valliere. The approach was paved with mirrors, whereon was painted an allegory setting forth the undying devotion of Louis.

An eccentric nobleman of Milan conceived the idea of paving the courtyard of his palace with slabs of marble, granite and other stone, each from a different land. It is said that Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia all contributed to make up this quaint mosaic, composed of more than a thousand pieces, every one of which was suitably inscribed with the name of the country or state whence it came.

Must Not Love Employers' Daughters.

"If we both love each other, surely your father will agree to our marriage," urged a wistful and eager swain to the eldest daughter of a merchant in Berlin.

"He will kill you, mine liebling," replied the lady. "Wait till the war is over, and you and I will have more money."

This part of a conversation came out in the evidence adduced at a trial before the industrial arbitration court of Berlin, at which a young man sued his employer for damages for illegal dismissal, holding that he was sent out of the works at a moment's notice by the employer on his learning that the plaintiff was courting his daughter!

The court took the view that he was "undermining the happiness of his employer's family," and decided the case against him.

"But does not love always upset someone's happiness?" replied the prosecutor.

The court looked gravely at the questioner, but declined to reply.

Bullet-Proof Caps.

The steel caps which are being served out to British soldiers at the front are marvels of lightness and strength. They are made of manganese steel, and are bullet-proof to a Webley automatic at five yards. Furthermore, during a recent experiment, one of the caps was only slightly dented when a heavy poker, raised over the head and brought down with both hands and all possible force, was crashed upon it.

The British helmets are called "soup plates" by the soldiers, and are so constructed that they not only protect the wearer from the enemy's weapons but from fragments of the cap itself. Rubber studs are placed between the helmet and the skull, while next to the latter is a double lining of wadding and felt. This not only renders the helmet more comfortable but helps to protect the skull from jagged fragments.

Explorer Has Great Record.

Sir Aurel Steig, who has just returned to Calcutta after a prolonged and important trip of exploration to the Russian Pamirs, is the greatest Asiatic explorer of the present, and probably one of the greatest explorers of all times. On his march down the Alla valley he was able to trace additional indications supporting the belief that through it passed the route which the ancient silk traders followed from Bactria to the "country of Seares," or China, and described by Marinus of Tyre. His subsequent journey down the Oxus was attended by an abundant harvest of observation on the historical typography, archeology, and ethnography of Wakham, which in early times had formed an important thoroughfare between Bactria, East India, and the Central Asian territories of China.

Speed Upon the Water.

A boat has been designed by D. N. Brown of Grand Haven, Mich., which on test runs has attained a speed of 40 miles an hour, says Popular Science. The body of the craft is made of thin galvanized iron over a basswood framework two feet wide and twenty feet long. Two galvanized iron air tanks are attached to an outrigger five feet from the rear end on both sides. When the four-cylinder motor, set in the rear, whirled a six-inch propeller, the prow rises out of the water and the craft skims along like a huge bird over the surface, the entire weight resting on about three feet of the stern. The two tanks maintain the equilibrium.

The boat has proved a success in all ways, and the inventor believes, with an improved design, that he will have a craft capable of making 60 miles an hour without being crowded.

Cat Dives for Frogs.

Warren Clement of Millvale, while at work in his hayfield, heard a loud splash in a pond near by, and thinking that perhaps a horse mackerel had got into the sheet of water, noiselessly approached the spot and was astonished, although he knew that he had one of the brightest cats in Maine, when he saw his pet Angora cat dive from a stump and disappear in the water, only to reappear within a few seconds, bearing a frog in its mouth.

Depositing the now lifeless frog on the ground, the four-footed cat gained the stump again, crouched, another spring, another dive, another swim and another frog.—Bangor Commercial.

Sure Thing.

Bill—I know a man who can tell the time of day by his pulse.

Jill—Quit you kiddin'. How could he do that?

"He wears a wrist watch. That's by his pulse, isn't it?"

## BELGIAN BELLS WAR VICTIMS

Famous Towers and Carillons in Unfortunate Country Have Been Destroyed in the Conflict.

Among the many unfortunate consequences of the European war is the destruction of many of the bell towers and carillons of Belgium. Mr. William Gorham Rice, in his "Carillons of Belgium and Holland," explains that the carillons are a set of tower bells attuned to intervals of the chromatic scale. Sometimes there are more than four octaves of bells, the lowest several tons in weight, whereas the smallest scarcely weighs twenty pounds.

The bells are connected with a keyboard by means of which the performer causes their clappers to strike the inside of their sound bow, or with a clockwork mechanism that causes a hammer to strike the outside.

The correspondent of a London newspaper, describing a recital given by Joseph Denyn, municipal carillonist of Mechlin (Malines), wrote:

"In these northern countries the day is long in August, and it was still twilight. Against the southern sky rose the broad, rugged tower of St. Rombold's. High up near the top of the tower shone a faint light. After the clock ceased striking and the vibration of its deep and solemn tones had died away, there was silence. So long a silence it seemed that we wondered if it was ever to be broken.

"Then, pianissimo, from the highest, lightest bells, as if very gently shaken from the sky itself, came trills and runs that were angelic. Rapidly they grew in volume and majesty as they descended the scale, until the entire heavens seemed full of music.

"Seated in the garden, we watched the little light in the tower, where we knew the unseen carillonist sat at his clavier, and yet we somehow felt that the music came from somewhere far above the tower, and was produced by superhuman hands. Sometimes in winter there comes a thaw, and one by one the icicles tinkle down; gently and timidly at first, then louder and louder, until, like an avalanche, the largest ones crash down with a mighty roar. All that the music suggested.

"It was low, it was loud; it was from one bell, and it was from chords of bells; it was majestic, it was simple. And every note seemed to fall from above, from such heights that the whole land heard its melody.

"Sometimes the sounds were so faint and delicate that we found ourselves bending forward to hear them. At other times, great chords, in the volumes of many organs, burst forth rapturously."—Youth's Companion.

Navajo Therapeutics.

The Medical Council, a medical magazine of Philadelphia, in an article by Dr. Basil A. Warren, who is in charge of the United States government hospital at Leupp, Ariz., described some of the methods employed by the Navajo Indians in the treatment of diseases. The Navajos have a strong belief in demons or evil spirits and think that when a body is buried care must be taken to cover up all tracks of those who left the grave so that the demons attending the burial could not follow them to their hogan—the hogan is the rude hut of the Indians—and do them harm.

The chief measures used in treating disease are singing, dancing and invocations. The singing idea is much in favor and might perhaps be adopted by civilization in some cases to the exclusion of less palatable potions. Certain songs are specific for certain diseases, but the song to be effective must be sung without a single error. These songs are not to be sung by quacks or irregulars, and to keep out such practitioners the regular profession employs a language which is not understood by any but themselves, a dead language which the Indians believe was spoken by "the ancient holy people."

The Worm That Turned.

Just by looking at him as he sat in the witness chair in the courtroom, one could tell that he was harmless, but a close inspection would also have revealed that there lurked behind his narrow and apologetic orbs, a latent fire indicative of a past when his life had been his own—a past now long distant. His general air was that of one having been detected by the minister while hoeing his garden on Sunday.

Counsel for the plaintiff in the case proceeded to ask him the usual questions:

"Please state your name to the jury."

"John Jones."

"Your age?"

"Fifty-eight."

"Married?"

Then it was that John slid lower into his chair as a flash of determination came into his eye, and he answered in a voice that could be heard distinctly, "Yes, very."

In the rear of the room a woman of 250 pounds glared at the timid little witness as he was seen trying to conceal a half-worried smile beneath his straggling mustache.

Where Reading Is Scarce.

Corners of the world still produce men who live in ignorance of its current literature. It was a Frenchman on Aldabra Island, 400 miles east of Zanzibar, who, the only white man, welcomed the papers and magazines from the British ship. He didn't know Turkey was at war—and he nearly wept at the presentation of tobacco, not grown on that turtle island.

In prison or such an island as Aldabra you must become an epicure—a glutton—of such print as available. The Crusoe of Aldabra Island had not the best hundred books. Two magazines of two and four years old. And by that time he knew them by heart.

With such a prospect before one and the question of bulk a man should certainly go for Shakespeare and the Bible. And if a third choice were allowed for three years' reading it would be the dictionary of Walker and Webster.

## ORKNEY ISLANDS IN HISTORY

Christian of Denmark Put Them Up for Security of Dowry When His Daughter Married James III.

No other territory in the British empire has a more tragic significance to Englishmen today than the Orkney islands, off whose shores the most distinguished victim of the world war, Earl Kitchener, lost his life when the cruiser Hampshire was sunk.

These islands, 90 in number, of which only 30 are inhabited, are separated from the mainland of Scotland by the Pentland Firth, from six and a half to eight miles wide. They were selected as England's North sea naval base not only on account of their proximity to the field of operations, but on account of their semi-isolation and the advantage of the superb harbor of Stromness, in the largest island of the group, Pomona, which has an area of 200 square miles.

While the original inhabitants of the islands were Picts, whose round towers and chambered mounds are among the interesting ruins of this region, the Norse pirates secured a foothold here during the early centuries of the Christian era, and carried on their depredations against all navigators of the North sea. In the last quarter of the ninth century Harold Haarfarg put an end to the rule of the pirates, and added both the Orkneys and the Shetland islands to Norway's domain. In 1468 the Orkneys came under the sway of the Scottish crown, Christian I of Denmark giving them as security for his daughter's dowry when she became the bride of James III. As the dowry was never paid the islands have remained a part of Scotland's domain ever since.

The Orkneys, which are the Orkades of classic literature, furnished the setting for many of the episodes in Sir Walter Scott's novel, "The Pirate," the character of that romance being John Gow, the notorious freebooter born in Stromness and captured off the islands in 1725. Another literary association of the Orkneys and one of especial interest to Americans centers in Shipinshay, the birthplace of William Irving, father of Washington Irving.

Navajo Therapeutics.

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